

be the motive power that moves the church, and so long as the *Holy Spirit* moves men and women to "go" and to "teach," the Lord will ever be with his people, and our teaching can not fail of success, either to save or to condemn those who hear. Let us pray that it may be to save them. O, that our brethren might realize that before God, we are to be "the ambassadors for Christ," and that God hath committed unto us the gospel, by which the "world is to be reconciled to Christ." II Cor. 5: 19, 20. It is with the most sanguine feelings that we notice the growth of the missionary spirit that is developing among our brethren. It is in this particular that we as a Board realize a great responsibility to our brethren everywhere, and we have indeed felt that many of you have not forgotten to remember us in your prayers. And above our responsibility to the church militant, we bow ourselves before God, confessing our failures, our weakness, and to thank Him for his rich grace which has abounded toward. We have felt from the bottom of our hearts the great work our brethren gave during the past year, and I believe in the fear of the Lord, we have done the best that we could with the work committed to our hands. We have advocated a more *triumphant* consecration of hearts, minds, and this world's substance, of our brethren, and not without some degree of success, in that more and more we are coming to recognize that all we are and all we have belong to God. The Board has received for the work the past year the sum of \$2337.58, and expended the sum of \$2134.43.

It is not necessary for me to say that the work where we have missions has been greatly handicapped for want of more means to carry it on in as aggressive a spirit as the gospel teaches we should carry on the work of the Lord. But we *feelingly* thank our mission workers for their tireless work and self sacrifice in their service of God, and their obedience to the church who has sent them into their special fields of labor. Without this sacrifice on their part we could not make even the report we do. While our brethren at home have made some sacrifice, and a few have made sacrifice worthy of mention, none have sacrificed as much as our missionaries who have been actively engaged in preaching the gospel in our missions. But whether it be the one who through good and evil report, lives on scant rations, and wear thread-bare garments that they may preach the gospel, according to the commission of the Lord, or the sister who out of her paltry sum of \$2.00, weekly earnings, contributes the fifty or hundred dollars a year to carry the gospel to the poor in our large cities, or to the heathen in foreign lands, they are alike rich in the sight of God.

THE WORK BEFORE US

One of the first matters which seemed of first importance to us, when we took up the work last fall, was ways or methods of gathering the Lord's money. That the Lord has much money in the hands of our churches,

need not be said, for He has prospered the people in this country above all the nations of the earth, so that to plead poverty would be to insult our Maker. But the Brethren as a church in the past has not given much thought as to how best to go about the work of gathering the Lord's money, and also how best to apply it to get the best results out of it. On account of which much money spent in the past, perhaps did not accomplish as much for the cause as the workers could wish.

COLLECTING MONEY FOR MISSIONS

That our brethren will give liberally, needs no proof, but only the best way of getting the money together and the most expeditious way of applying it to the work so as to get the best results need engage my attention on this point. Other denominations have adopted and have in use many methods of getting money for missionary work, some of which would never be popular nor successful in the Brethren church, for very many of our most spiritual and liberal givers for missions, do not see much if any piety in some methods of gathering the Lord's money, if in their minds, indeed, it does not bring in question the *motive* of the giver.

THE MISSIONARY CONVENTION

In the Illiokota District we held three Missionary conventions last winter which were productive of much good and resulted I think in getting more money for the work, than could have been gotten any other way. The sum of \$626.00 was raised in cash, and pledges at the three conventions, and the benefit to the congregations where they were held can not be estimated. They were genuine Bible schools in which the Holy Spirit took the lead, with rich blessings for every honest heart. I commend the Missionary Convention as the most practical and also the most gospel way to raise money. It is my experience that when our brethren wish to give money for missions, they wish to *give it*, and it does not take them long to do so. We would urge that Missionary conventions be held in all our churches with good spiritual *Bible programs*, as the best way to raise money for missions, and as the most profitable to the congregation where they are held. In addition to the Missionary convention we would recommend the use of the missionary barrel for the children, Sunday-school and young people's societies. These methods are according to gospel, and we are of the opinion that of all methods ever tried by the churches, the old gospel way is and ever will be the best and most successful.

The Missionary convention is the best thing, in my opinion that can be held in any church, and God will always bless his own way.

It would perhaps be good to place the matter of holding Missionary conventions in the hands of some competent brother who would travel and hold conventions in all our most prominent churches, as a field secretary. I believe such a work would be good for the

church. And at places where it would not be profitable to hold such a convention, I would recommend the secretary send request to pastor or others in charge, to hold a missionary day and take collection of cash and pledges for the work.

CALL TO THE WORK

As a Board we feel to recognize the calling of two very excellent sisters, who have volunteered for the foreign field, and almost feel it incumbent upon us to render them assistance in the matter of fitting themselves for the very arduous, but glorious work of the Lord. Proper training is very needful for the successful prosecution of the work, where language and customs of the people are so very different from ours.

QUALIFICATIONS

We think a reasonable examination with regard to physical strength on the part of those who contemplate entering the foreign field, should be insisted upon.

However, with gospel consecration and faith, God is able to do more in this direction, than we could think of asking. Aye, He has made weak vessels strong for his work in difficult fields.

Certain it is that strength of spiritual endowment with at least some of the graces characteristic of the Holy Spirit's manifestations, according to I Cor. 12, should be found in those who would go fourth in the name of the Lord. A keen discernment of propriety, discretion and sense of responsibility, are beautifully exhibited in the successful labors of Paul. Aye, it was no longer Paul, but the Christ that dwelt in him that did the work, hence it is that the writings and labors of Paul, have ever attracted the minds of the most profound thinkers of the centuries. His life experience shows how Christ in us the hope of glory can do that which we of ourselves should never undertake.

CHURCH EXTENSION

Permanence and solidarity should be labored for in those localities in which we have established missions. Places for worship should be secured and *owned* as soon as practicable so that the matter of rents would not need be reckoned with. And such headquarters are very needful in cities where we would attempt to do any rescue work, which is perhaps the most blessed work in all the world.

It is the sense of the Board that money should be raised for the purpose of securing property in Washington this year, and also in Chicago at as early a date as a suitable location, and advantageous opportunity for purchase may come to our notice. The marvelous success of several other denominations is traceable to the fact they never let go by favorable opportunity to acquire properties and make permanent any work begun by them.

For the time being, we have secured the use of a small church in Chicago, located on Oakley Avenue near Jackson Boulevard favorable for the work there.